

Literary Analysis

SPRUNG RHYTHM

A poem written in **sprung rhythm** has lines that have fixed numbers of stressed syllables, but varying numbers of unstressed syllables. This pattern can emphasize words and ideas, as in this example.

/ ~ / ~ / ~ / ~ /
 Glory be to God for dappled things—
 ~ / ~ / ~ / ~ ~ ~ / ~ /
 For skies of couple-color as a brindled cow;
 ~ / ~ / ~ / ~ ~ ~ / ~ /
 For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;

Directions: Use stress marks to show the pattern of accented and unaccented syllables in each line. Hopkins included stress marks in some of the lines. Then note the idea or element emphasized by the rhythm of the line.

Line	Ideas Emphasized by Rhythm
"Fresh firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings" ("Pied Beauty," line 4)	
"All things counter, original, spare, strange" ("Pied Beauty," line 7)	
"With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;" ("Pied Beauty," line 9)	
"Praise him." ("Pied Beauty," line 11)	
"Márgarét, are you griéving Over Goldengrove unleaving?" ("Spring and Fall," lines 1–2)	
"Áh! ás the heart grows older / It will come to such sights colder." ("Spring and Fall," lines 5–6)	
"Sórrów's springs áre the same." ("Spring and Fall," line 11)	